Swinging around golf

By HERB GRAFFIS

News of the Golf World in brief



Nature had the fairway rye growing too fast and the wind drying greens slick made for bellyaching by Masters players who weren't scoring well . . . Naturally, no complaints by those who had low scores although everybody played the same course . . . Several News Bulletins issued by Masters' Chairman Clifford Roberts referred to course conditions . . . Greens mowing was a 3/16 inch in practice rounds and at 5/32 during the tournament . . . Same tournament length as last year . . . Thursday, April 6, first day of Masters, fairway mowers were set at 1/2 inch and each fairway and green was mowed twice (the custom at the Masters) . . .

Despite the cross-mowing, hot weather had the fairways growing so rapidly sperintendent John Graves set mowers at 3/8 inch ("reluctantly" because he was afraid of scalping areas, said Roberts in Bulletin No. 11) . . . Nobody connected with the Masters had heard of fairways being mowed that close. However, Graves was pleased with the results and cross-mowing at that length was continued on Saturday and Sunday.

Roberts, in News Bulletin No. 2, referred to major alterations such as a bunker on the second hole and one on the 18th . . . He said, "We believe length alone is not the way to provide a good test of golfing ability. Our preference has always been to permit unusually skillful play to be rewarded by unusually good scores." . . . Ben Hogan's brilliant 66 Saturday against a par of 72 on the 6,980 yard course certain-

ly was most "unusually skillful play." . . .

Marshall E. Farnham who retired, three years ago after more than 30 years as superintendent, Philadelphia CC., and who was president GCSA in 1946 and 1947 and served as an official of Philadelphia area and other golf turf organizations, died March 31 of cancer . . . He was an admirable, outstanding personality and a practical scientist of immense influence and value in golf . . . Many superintendents have said Farnham was the supt. primarily responsible for developing understanding and cooperation between the men in charge of the courses and the Green Section and other agronomy specialists . . . He was a helpful, kindly friend of highest quality . . . A veteran member of his club several years ago well expressed the rating of Farnham by those who knew him. "The ideal country club would be one with its members nearly up to the standard of Marshall Farnham as a man and in his work."

Southern Seniors GA in its 36th annual report lists 52 clubs at which SSGA events have been played during the 18 years Chester I. Williams has been the organization's secretary . . . Three-time British Open Champion Henry Cotton relates that when Robert Simpson was pro at the Dalhousie GC, Carnoustie, Scotland, in 1883, he was paid approximately 75 cents for an 18-hole playing lesson and out of that had to pay his caddie about 15 cents . . . When Cotton became pro at Langley Park Club in England in 1923 his lesson fee was about

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GRAFFIS SWING

continued from page 8

\$1.25 an hour and the caddies got about the same, including the tip . . Waddya mean "the good old days?"

Jim Dempsey is pro-superintendent at the new par-3 nine of Boar's Head Inn at Charlottesville, Va. .. The course was designed by Ray Loving, golf director of Farmington (Va.) CC. Dempsey formerly was pro at the U.S. Navy course, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba . . .

Paul Bell is another of the veteran pros who resigned a job he'd had for years (at Beach Club, Naples, Fla.) and after a year's vacation returned to work at a resort course for the summer season (Lake Morey Inn Hotel & GC, Fairlee, Vt.) . . . Small clubs, resort courses especially, are getting marvelous instruction and service bargains in employment of highly competent veteran pros who wanted to lighten their work load at big membership clubs . . . Henry Picard, Roland Wingate and Billy Burke are three other older stars.

Annual meeting of the Golf Writers Association is held the Wednesday prior to the Masters, in the Tournament Committee building . . The place and time are indicative of the writers' feeling of co-sponsorship of the tournament . . . Dudley (Waxo) Green, Nashville Banner, was elected president, succeeding Dana Mozley, New York Daily News

Charles Bartlett, Chicago Tribune was re-elected secretary, an office he has held since the founding of the organization 18 years ago . . . John Bibb, Tennessean, Nashville, was elected treas-As the association now has more than 500 members there's too much detail in the combined job for a working newspaperman so the load was split.

Max Elbin, PGA president, was presented the William Richardson memorial award by Lincoln Werden, New York Times, the Writers' board chairman . . . The Richardson trophy goes to a man who, in the golf writer's judgment, has done an outstanding job for golf

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GRAFFIS SWING

and golfers . . . Elbin was chosen as the stand-up representative of the multitude of pros who rarely are headlined nation-wide for their valuable service to the golfing public and because of his astute and firm leadership of pro golf at a critical period when efforts were being made to split pro golf into several groups with the objective being to make pro golf promoters' property.

At their annual meeting, the writers voted to name clubs and events where press coverage facilities have been bad . . . Pleasant Valley, site of the Carling World in '65, the Whitemarsh Open, the Los Angeles Open and Merion were cited as needing much improvement.

Golf writers whose labors have made pros and promoters rich and who made golf tournaments expensive television sales deals were reminded by the TV strike during the Masters that the golf gravy train which the writers built is speeding past them like the fast freight train of American folk lore used to roar past tramps . . . The TV strike didn't reduce the Masters television value a

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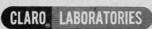


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GRAFFIS SWING

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dime but if there had been a nationwide newspaper strike during the Masters, the tournament undoubtedly would have suffered a serious drop as a gallery attraction . . . And with the Masters this year returning over \$100,000 to people whose ticket requests couldn't be accommodated the value of the writers to the event was substantially indicated.

Older golf writers recall it wasn't easy to sell the Masters to sports editors and managing editors . . . Now the Masters gets coverage by more writers than the National Open gets . . . The canny, foresighted Cliff Roberts showed himself to be smart as a press relations man when he began early to develop press facilities at the Masters until they became by a long way the best in golf . . . With Bob Jones a sports idol who has stood at the peak with golf journalists (and all other knowing sports writers) over the years the personal interest of writers in the Masters long has been warm . . . Roberts and Jones wisely engaged Ed Miles, retired Atlanta Journal golf writer and

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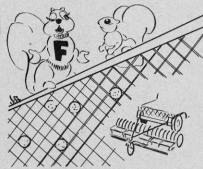
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GRAFFIS SWING

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former president, Golf Writers Association, to work with Masters Press and Photographers committee chairman Charles Yates, on the many problems that can't be codified.

Talk about the irregular tees as something new giving great variety to holes must amuse Mark Mahannah, the Florida architect, who's made interesting use of that idea for years . . . He designed two of the twisting tees back-to-back at the Paradise CC at Crystal River, Fla., that were exciting six or seven years ago when the course was opened and continue to get highly favorable comment from golfers, pro and amateur.

Charlie Farlow now pro at Oak Island Club, Southport, S.C. . . . For 20 years Farlow was pro at Starmount For-

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GRAFFIS SWING

continued from page 108

est, Greensboro, N.C. . . . Plenty of comment about slow play being cured if the \$1.40 per hour minimum wage applied to caddies . . . Peter Cherone who was assistant pro at Ridgewood (N.J.) under late George Jacobus now is pro at Glenwood CC, Old Bridge, N.J. . . . Paul Scodeller, who has been pro at Navy Marine GC, Honolulu, since 1956 now is pro at El Niguel CC, Laguna Niguel, Calif. . . . Paul's brother Emil is pro at Annandale CC, Pasadena, Calif. and his half-brother, Eric Monti, is pro at Hillcrest CC, Beverly Hills, Calif. . . . Burr Patchell, known to many veteran pros for his work as a clubmaker with the Walter Hagen Co. in its early years and for 30 years clubmaking with Mac-Gregor, has an interesting and growing museum of golf items in Raleigh, N.C. he calls the Mid-South Golf Museum.

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Rhode Island Golf Course Superintendents Association recently held an Old Timers' dinner at which a dozen members were given plaques as "founding members" although the records of the organization, established in 1930, long since have vanished . . . Like the plans of drainage and water lines of golf courses installed about that time . . . Orville Clapper, West Newton, Mass. equipment and supply dealer, and Dr. Jesse De France, now of Scott Seed, who also helped the fellows get their outfit going, were given Founding Father plaques . . . Orville was MC for the dinner and he and his secretary did a lot of work collecting the work biographies of the Rhode Island fellows who produced some of the finest golf turf on that part of New England's stern and rock-bound coast.

Thinking about great work Jesse De France did in bringing the turf scientists and the greenskeepers together we are reminded that John Monteith, Burt Musser, Lawrence Dickison, Glenn Burton and the late O. J. Noer as scientists have received the Green Section award and the late Joe Valentine and Elmer Michaels got it as working course managers (who certainly deserved the recognition.)

Bill Jaeger, general chairman, 1968 USGA National Amateur championship at Scioto CC, Columbus, O., appoints Nicholas Popa tournament manager . . . Popa, an advertising man who came into golf as a caddie and who wrote a useful book on caddie training, is a side-line career man in tournament management. . . . He managed the 1964 PGA championship at Columbus CC . . . Don Boyd, the Columbus CC manager, set up for the PGA affair the best working manual for the house end of a big championship that ever was compiled, according to several experienced managers.

Miami Herald supplement (Golfing in South Florida), published with a Monday paper before the Doral tournament, was the fattest in advertising of all news-

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GRAFFIS SWING

continued from preceding page paper golf supplements to date Jimmy Burns, Ray Crawford, Ken Small, Gene Plowden, Dick Meyer and Ted Findlay of the Herald, with Bob Toski and Paul Hahn gave the feature a lot of hot copy, including a fine selection of 18 "Challenging" holes of south Florida and a directory of the area's clubs and pros . . . High tribute is paid to south Florida golf course superintendents' work . . . Picture of June Taylor dancers of the Jackie Gleason show taking their golf lessons makes many guys want to trade iobs with Hahn, the trick shot star, and Gleason as the Taylor girls' tutors . . . Hahn takes Gleason usually at CC of Miami and how sweet it is for Paul to grab those \$5 Nassaus from Gleason who is nearly a par golfer.

Bert Purvis, the vigorous salesman who's been plugging pro golf for years in upper state New York tells us that Bob Haggerty, Jr., son of a guy we all knew and loved, is pro at Schenectady (N.Y.) muny course . . . Bill Lawlor is pro at Teugega CC, Rome, N.Y., Jim Peters is at the new Casenovia (N.Y.) CC, Dick Osborne is at Ballaston Spa (N.Y.) CC, Jim Eldredge is at the Park CC, Williamsville, N.Y. . . . Bert says Larry Bartosek, pro at Skaneateles CC in Syracuse did record business in his winter golf school.

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Most complete story on building of a golf course we've seen in a newspaper was written in San Diego News-Chietain by Hal Davee interviewing Ken Moore, superintendent Rancho Bernardo . . . Two pages of type and illustrations on the 18-hole RB addition designed by Theodore G. Robinson . . . Philadelphia Inquirer's 1967 Golf Guide, prepared by Fred Byrod, sports editor and veteran golf writer, a most useful, interesting work with map of all courses in the Delaware Valley, lots of instruction, list of club champions and low handicap players, course features and 1967 equipment.

Mrs. Charles Evans, Chick's beloved wife, died in Chicago, Feb. 12, after three years of painful invalidism, valiantly suffered . . . She was 72 . . . Her maiden name was Underwood . . . Chick always left tournaments to be home with her nights during her illness . . . Last summer, he flew to Philadelphia for a ceremony marking the 50th anniversary of the amateur victory of his Open-Amateur championship triumphs, and returned to Chicago and his wife's bedside after a few hours at Merion.

Winter's heavy snows are expected to produce considerable reconstruction of courses after spring flood damage, forecast superintendents at GCSA annual meeting . . . Gerald Dearie, superintendent, Medinah CC (Western Open), Hen-

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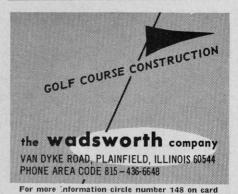
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GRAFFIS SWING

continued from preceding page son Maples, superintendent, Pinehurst CC (Western Amateur) and Charles Lawson, superintendent, Indiana University GC (Western Junior) commended by Adelor J. Petit, jr., Western Open president, for superb condition of courses during 1966 Western championships . . . Those championships were held at times when courses without expert, vigilant watching (and a little bit of luck) could have gone bad . . . The PGA championship usually is the toughest one for the superintendent, as it customarily is played in July when weather, bug and disease conditions are against golf grass . . . I'll say the superintendents' public education program has made a immense advance when ten per cent of the contestants in the PGA championship know the name of the superintendent at the host course . . . Not often do contestants in sectional PGA events know who is superintendent of the course they're enjoying . . . That's a blind spot in the educational publicity of the PGA and GCSA sections that could be easily corrected.

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will be played at Pinehurst, Nov. 15-18 . . . USGA will be sponsor as one of the 50 member nations of the World Amateur Golf Council which has sent representatives of 35 nations to the Eisenhower and Espirito Santo trophy tournaments for men and women . . . Four men teams at this World Senior inaugural at the famed old golf resort in the Carolina sandhills . . . Pinehurst, after dropping the North and South Open and establishing the N&S Seniors converted a loss into a profitable week with hundreds now on the N&S Seniors waiting list . . . Estimates of senior tournament and resort spending this year top \$6 million.

College men keep moving up in course management jobs . . . Richard B. Craig from Purdue, then eight years at Losantiville CC, Cincinnati, now is superintendent, Firestone CC, Akron, O. . . . W. D. Haven, graduate of University of Illinois, then at graduate work in plant physiology at Iowa State, then with International Minerals and Chemical Corp., Skokie, Ill., now superintendent of golf and grounds at Greenbrier, White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.

George Lanphear, veteran Calif. superintendent, now building Friendly Hills CC at Whittier, Calif., to design of Jimmy Hines . . . Jimmy's been successful in pro business in New York Met district, Chicago, Palm Springs and Hawaii, as a developer with Johnny Dawson and on his own golf-real estate projects in southern California, as a director of op-

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GRAFFIS SWING

continued from preceding page

erations and promotion for a top Hawaiian golf resort and as an architect . . . Lanphear says Hines has a fine feeling for balancing factors testing the playing stars and providing entertaining tests for golfers who pay to play . . . George adds that Jimmy has a knack of designing for good maintenance at moderate price.

Lanphear tells of using a tree-moving outfit made in Iowa and sold by West Point in moving 200 trees on the Friendly Hills job . . . Some trees were 100 ft. high and 18 ft. through the butt . . . He says work would have been too costly if given to a contractor . . . Now the trees look like they've been in place for many years.

Surprising how few clubs have practice and lesson tees shaded for comfort and protection of members and pros . . . No wonder so many pros have skin cancers and have their teaching effectiveness reduced summer afternoons . . . Lightning risk is serious at some shady spots where pros teach . . . Jack Hawkins, Jr., a fine youngster who was assistant to Cliff Calderwood, pro at Riverdale CC, Little Rock, Ark., was killed by lightning last year, teaching at Augusta, Ark., on his day off . . . His woman pupil was hospitalized and recovered.

Revision of USGA Handicap system requires accurate measurement of courses . . . Probably the majority of U.S. courses haven't correct distances on the cards . . . The new USGA system bases handicaps on 10 of the last 20 scores and 85% of average of best 10 differentials be-

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Larry Crummett from Coon Creek CC, San Antonio, Tex., to Oaks CC, Tulsa, pro job succeeding Marion Askew who retired . . . Robert Muir Graves designing Berryesa GC, San Jose, Calif., as a feature of an industrial area development . . . Tom Scott, editor, Golf Illustrated, London, commenting on the retirement of Percy Allis, noted pro who's quitting at age 70 to live like a member, said of Percy and other stars in the '20s: "Those were the days when the spectators could get up close to the gladiators. It did not strike me then, but how wonderfully calm those players of 30 odd years ago were. I certainly cannot remember the looks and petulant actions which one see occasionally today."

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